

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/532,973

Examiner

Mark Blouin

Applicant(s)

MURATA ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to W/21/06
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 12-20(renumbered as 1-14).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Detailed Action

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-4,6, and 12-20 (renumbered as 1-14) are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art does not teach nor reasonably suggest, as recited in claims 1 and 12, a reflective foil is attached, along the pull-in direction of the tray, on a back surface opposite to the tray's mounting surface for mounting the disc-shaped recording medium; a black portion is formed where the reflective foil is absent corresponding to a size of the disc-shaped recording medium; and it is judged such that the disc-shaped recording medium is properly mounted if the tray detection means detects the lack portion and if the disc detection means detects the disc-shaped recording medium, while in cases other than the above, it is judged such that the disc-shaped recording medium is not properly mounted.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art does not teach nor reasonably suggest, as recited in claim 17, the tray detection means includes a light emitter and a light detector, and also includes a target section of detection including a reflective or a non-reflective portion at the tray side; and a detection operation is carried out in which the light detector detects whether or not a light emitted from the light emitter is reflected at the target section of detection.
4. The closest prior art is Andrews et al (US 5,974,016) shows a disc-type recording and/or reproducing apparatus configured to load a disc-shaped recording medium at a recording/reproducing position by pulling a tray in on which the disc-shaped recording medium is mounted, and to perform a recording and/or a reproducing with a head, characterized by

including: on a pull-in path of the tray but does not show the tray detection means includes a light emitter and a light detector, and also includes a target section of detection including a reflective or a non-reflective portion at the tray side; and a detection operation is carried out in which the light detector detects whether or not a light emitted from the light emitter is reflected at the target section of detection.

These features, in combination with the other features of Claims 1,12, and 17 are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms.Hoa Nguyen, can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Art Unit 2627
December 21, 2006

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